

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 04362 091641Z

47

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 722

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 4362

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, SP

SUBJ: REMARKS OF JOSE HARRY DE ALMEIDA ARAUJO ON
PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: MADRID 6372; LISBON A-93

SUMMARY: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON JOSE ALMEIDA ARAUJO
FOLLOWS, AS WELL AS AN EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF HIS IDEOLOGICAL
VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. JOSE HARRY DE ALMEIDA ARAUJO IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY
PORTUGAL. HE IS AN EXTREMELY RICH, VERY CONSERVATIVE
ARCHITECT WHO HAS SPEND MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE OUTSIDE OF
PORTUGAL IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND ENGLAND. HE RETURNED TO
PORTUGAL SOON AFTER APRIL 25. HE HAS HAD A NUMBER OF CONTACTS
WITH EMBOFFS HERE (THE FIRST IN MID-JUNE) IN AN ATTEMPT TO
SECURE USG AND AND INFORMATION FOR USE IN HIS SELF-STYLED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 04362 091641Z

ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE. HE SOUGHT BUT WAS NOT ENCOURAGED

IN HIS BID TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR, BUT HAS HAD FULL ACCESS TO POLITICAL OFFICER.

2. HE IS NOT, DESPITE HIS CLAIM, HEAD OF THE PORTUGUESE LIBERAL PARTY, AND ONLY JOINED ITS DIRECTORATE IN EARLY OCTOBER. HE IS DEFINITELY NOT A MODERATE SOCIALIST, AND IS CONSIDERED A FAR RIGHTIST EVEN BY LEADERS OF THE FORMER REGIME. FOR EXAMPLE, A PROMINENT RIGHT WINGER IN THE COURSE OF LAMENTING THE BAD JUDGEMENT BEING SHOWN BY THE ORGANIZERS OF THE SEPT. 28 PRO-SPINOLA DEMONSTRATION, REFERRED TO ARAUJO AS AN "EXTREMIST AND SUB-CRETIN." FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS HE HAS BEEN FLITTING FROM ONE RIGHT WING GROUP TO THE OTHER ATTEMPTING TO GET THEM TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE SOUGHT TO PROCURE ARMS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BANKING CIRCLES. LOCAL INVESTMENT BANKER SAYS ARAUJO IN TOUCH WITH ROY COHN, FORMER LAWYER FOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY.

3. ALMEIDA ARAUJO TOLD EMBOFFS IN HIS LAST MEETING WITH THEM IN LATE AUGUST THAT HE WOULD TRY TO PROVOKE ATTACKS ON HIMSELF BY COMMUNIST MILITANTS IN ORDER TO SHOW THE TRUE NATURE OF COMMUNISTS. MANY OF THE THOUGHTS HE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS IN SPAIN WERE CONVEYED TO US AT THAT TIME. HE HAD BY THIS MEETING ALREADY ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO HIS PERSON THROUGH TWO LETTERS ON THE DANGERS OF COMMUNISM HE SENT TO EXPRESSO, AND BECAUSE OF A POSTER HE HAD PRINTED EQUATING COMMUNISM WITH FASCISM. (HIS HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO BY FIVE ARMED MEMBERS OF THE PCP WHO WERE SEEKING TO DESTROY ALL EXTANT COPIES OF THE POSTER.)

4. WHAT ALMEIDA ARAUJO HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE NEEDS TO BE INTERPRETED IN VIEW OF HIS STRONG, EVEN HYSTERICAL ANTI-COMMUNIST FEELINGS, WHICH STEM IN PART FROM HIS POSTWAR EXPERIENCES LIVING IN GERMANY AFTER WW II. HIS VIEWS OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL ARE WIDELY HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE UPPER CLASS ELITE.

5. ALMEIDA ARAUJO IS, AS HE ALLEGES, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 04362 091641Z

ORGANIZERS OF THE ABORTIVE PRO-SPINOLA DEMONSTRATION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 28. HE IS CLOSE TO TOP MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL ELITE HERE, AND WELL-PLACED TO ARRANGE FINANCING FOR THE DEMONSTRATION. WHILE WE HAVE NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE THAT GALVAO DE MELO ENTRUSTED HIM WITH ARRANGING CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH IN THIS REGARD. THE LOCAL PRESS CHARGES THAT HE WAS A KEY CONSPIRATOR IN THE RIGHT-

WING PLOT TO OVERTHROWN THE REGIME. ARMY UNITS SEARCHED THE SHERATON HOTEL FOR HIM THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 29 (WITHOUT SUCCESS) AND APPARENTLY HAVE A WARRANT OUT FOR HIS ARREST.

6. THE CLAIMS MADE BY ARAUJO (PARA 7) REGARDING ARMS SMUGGLING TO PCP VIA SPAIN UTILIZING SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE ESPECIALLY IN THE DETAIL WITH WHICH IT IS DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE FACT THAT STORIES OF THIS NATURE HAVE BEEN IN THE AIR SINCE APRIL 25, THERE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE LACK OF SOLID EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEM. IT WOULD SEEM HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO US THAT PCP HERE WOULD JEOPARDIZE ITS RATHER CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A RESPECTABLE POSITION ON THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE BY UNDERTAKING ADVENTURES OF THIS SORT.

7. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY SPAIN'S CABLE ON ITS CONVERSATION WITH ALMEIDA ARAUJO, AND IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE, EXPECT HE WILL CONTACT EMBASSY PARIS. HE IS WORTH KEEPING TABS ON BECAUSE OF HIS LOCAL CONTACTS AND THE PROBABILITY THAT HE WILL BE A LEADER OF THE PORTUGUESE FAR RIGHT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS ALSO BEEN IN TO SEE EMBOFFS IN LONDON, AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE.
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NOTE BY OC/T: LISBON 4362 NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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